

***A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FAUQUIER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WAS HELD APRIL 10, 2000 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM AT LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL, BEALETON, VIRGINIA***

P R E S E N T Mr. Larry L. Weeks, Chairman; Mr. Joe Winkelmann, Vice Chairman; Mr. Harry Atherton; Ms. Sharon McCamy; Mr. Raymond Graham; Mr. G. Robert Lee, County Administrator; Mr. Paul S. McCulla, County Attorney

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

The Board of Supervisors held a public information meeting to receive and respond to questions from the citizens of Fauquier County. The following persons spoke:

- F. Scott Seegers, Cedar Run District, spoke in favor of the County using the 150 MHz radio system instead of pursuing the 800 MHz system. He felt that the 800 MHz system would be costly to use. Mr. Seegers also asked what was delaying the upgrade of the current low band system. Philip Myer, Emergency Services Coordinator, said that the telephone lines were installed and that the transmitters would be installed May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mark Cornwell, Assistant County Administrator, gave an update on the status of the 800 MHz radio system procurement. Mr. Cornwell said that CTA Communications had met with vendors on the Request for Proposals (RFP); the County has appointed the RFP selection team; the RFP should be ready in about two weeks and the vendors would have ninety days to respond. He also said that the 800 MHz frequency allocation plan prepared by Association of Professional Communications Officers (APCO) Region 20 had been sent to adjacent regions for review. Once approved at the regional level, the plan would be sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for final approval.
- Sal Torelli, Center District, spoke regarding the current emergency services radio system. He said that the current system is failing law enforcement because it is outdated and that lives were at stake when the radios do not work.
- Beth Healy, Center District, asked the Board of Supervisors to improve the current emergency services radio system.
- Joan Muschamp, Lee District, spoke in favor of the County borrowing money to renovate middle schools instead of a bond referendum. Ms. Muschamp also said that she agreed with the need to improve the current emergency services radio system and asked if the County might need more paid emergency services staff. Mr. Lee said that detailed records with call logs were being kept and that there is also a comprehensive plan for public safety facilities. Mr. Winkelmann said that the Emergency Services Task Force was three months into a six-month study for this type of data collection. He said that emergency services personnel will be allocated on a demand basis, not geographical. Mr. Graham said that he felt there needed to be a balance between paid and volunteer emergency service personnel.
- Jim Stone, Cedar Run District, representing Citizens for Fauquier County, spoke in opposition to the Auburn Dam Project. Mr. Stone alleged that the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District, in a tax-funded publication, had published articles containing false information. He felt that this type of information should not be funded by the taxpayer. Mr. Weeks said that testing still needed to be completed so that groundwater possibilities could be

researched.

- Butler Grant, Center District, spoke regarding the unreliable radio system now used by emergency services personnel. He said that he felt the lives of the public were at risk when the radios failed. Mr. Grant said that there was a need for a system that works, that is reliable, and that has multi-function capabilities.
- Brenda Chunik, Scott District, spoke regarding the need for the 800 MHz radio system because the current system is out of date.
- Theresa Miller, Marshall District, spoke in favor of a new emergency services radio system.
- Fred Pfeiff, Center District, spoke in support of moving forward with the 800 MHz emergency services radio system.
- Gary Healy, Center District, spoke in favor of the 800 MHz emergency services radio system.
- Jamie Cooper, Lee District, asked that the Board of Supervisors videotape meetings and that the Librarian make copies for review by the public.
- Dave Flohr, Scott District, spoke regarding the need for a new emergency services radio system.
- Angel Walters spoke in support of a workable emergency services radio system.
- R. Trone Powles, Marshall District, spoke in favor of the 800 MHz emergency services radio system.
- Russell Teel, Marshall District, spoke in favor of the 800 MHz emergency services radio system. He said that he had faith that the Board of Supervisors would make the right decision to get the best for fire and rescue and law enforcement.
- Roger Fraser, Lee District, informed the Board of Supervisors that other jurisdictions were using the 800 MHz radio system.
- Harold Dutton, Cedar Run District, thanked the Board of Supervisors for having this public information meeting. He also spoke of the need for a new radio system that works and felt that Board members would make the right decision.
- Jeff Crane spoke in favor of the 800 MHz emergency services radio system because the current system was terrible. He said that other jurisdictions were using this system.
- Joell Gouldthorpe spoke regarding the inadequacy of the current emergency services radio system. She said that a quality system was needed and felt the 800 MHz system was the best.
- Stephanie Thompson spoke of the need for a workable emergency services radio system because the current system is failing. She felt that the 150 MHz system was inadequate.

- Carl Billingsley, Cedar Run District, spoke in support of the 800 MHz emergency services radio system. Since he was a member of the committee that initially recommended the 800 MHz system to the County, Mr. Billingsley explained the criteria considered by the committee in making its recommendation.
- Butch Grimsley, President of the Fire and Rescue Association, spoke in support of the 800 MHz emergency services radio system. He said that currently, fire and rescue and law enforcement do not have an accessible radio system.
- Mike Miller spoke of the need for an emergency services radio system that works.
- Scott Humphrey asked the Board of Supervisors when he could expect the entrance to the Landfill to be moved from Green Road to Route 29. Mark Cornwell said that work was now going on at the Landfill to complete the project. Mr. Cornwell expects the project to be complete by late fall.
- Warren Jenkins spoke in favor of the 800 MHz emergency services radio system.
- Jo Sargent, Center District, agreed that communications is an important need. Ms. Sargent also spoke of the need for Fauquier County to create its own Community Services Board.
- Sue Scheer spoke in favor of including the Auburn Dam site in a historical district.
- Otis Ellis, Cedar Run District, spoke in favor of the 800 MHz radio system because the current system is inadequate.
- Sean Polster, Cedar Run District, spoke in favor of a better emergency services radio system.
- Jim Borland, Marshall District, said the he felt the current radio system was adequate and that faulty maintenance and upkeep of the current system was an issue. Mr. Borland read articles of other jurisdictions that have found faults with the 800 MHz system.
- Jim Jeckell, Lee District, asked the Board of Supervisors to approve a new emergency services radio system that will grow with the needs of the County.
- Brenda Bryans, Lee District, spoke regarding the need for a reliable, workable emergency services radio system that could be properly maintained.
- Dave Casin, Lee District, spoke in favor of placing emergency service personnel closer to a medical facility.
- Debbie Arstino, Lee District, spoke in favor of the 800 MHz emergency services radio system and said that the County needed to act on this soon.
- Beth Ledgerton, Treasurer, thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Ms. Ledgerton also said that the Sheriff's judgement should be trusted regarding the best emergency services radio system.

- Joe Higgs, Sheriff, spoke in favor of the 800 MHz emergency services radio system.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.